NOTE III.

A CELEBIAN MOUSE RENAMED,

BY

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After having examined Gray's type of *Acanthomys leucopus* [1]) and compared that animal with my description of *Mus leucopus* [2]), Alston comes to the conclusion [3]), "that I have been misled by Gray's very insufficient description". I am the first to agree with Alston in this statement. I am much indebted to Mr. Alston for his minute description of the *Mus* in question, s. n. *Mus terrae-reginae.*

If I had known that Gray's *leucopus* has the tail shorter than head and body and the fur above *dark reddish*- and not *greyish*-brown, I should certainly not have made a mistake in confounding these two distinct species. But I believe it quite impossible to recognize species if they are described so incompletely and inexactly as is the case with the greater part of Gray's descriptions.

So I am now in the painful necessity to rebaptize my Celebian Mouse and Mr. S. C. J. W. van Musschenbroek proposes to give it the specific name of *beccarii* (for description see Notes from the Leyden Museum, 1879, p. 8).

However I cannot conceive why the specific identity

1) P. Z. S. L. 1867. p. 598.
2) Notes from the Leyden Museum, 1879. p. 8.
3) P. Z. S. L. 1879. p. 645.

of a *Mus* from Celebes with one from the continent of Australia seems to Mr. Alston so unlikely. All naturalists are acquainted with the fact that some Mice-species have a nearly unlimited area of distribution, so for instance *Mus rattus*, *decumanus*, *musculus*, etc. are to be found in nearly all the parts of the world, having generally been transported by vessels. Moreover I have seen a specimen of the very beautiful *Echiothrix leucura* Gray, captured in North Celebes, whereas the type specimen described by Gray [1]) inhabits Australia. I have also before me a Mouse from Wonoembai (Arou-Islands), brought home by Mr. v. Rosenberg and agreeing in all parts with the Australian *Mus terrae-reginae* Alston, only a little smaller in all dimensions.

P. S. Mr. van Musschenbroek writes me "I propose you to name this species after my friend Dr. Odoardo Beccari, the highly gifted naturalist who, after many other scientifical travels, made our Indian Archipelago the field of his explorations and penetrating to the most unknown and remote parts of these beautiful regions, obtained such great results for both their Fauna and Flora."

1) P. Z. S. L. 1867. p. 599. If at least Gray's description and locality are exact, for I have not seen the type specimen in the British Museum.